

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages \$1741-\$1780

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2158–2163, and S. Res. 399.

Page S1775

Measures Passed:

American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1827, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1778–79

2014 Arctic Winter Games: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 387, celebrating the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, in Fairbanks, Alaska, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S1779

Measures Considered:

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pages S1741-44, S1761-70, S1770-71

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. Pages \$1770-71

Ukraine Loan Guarantees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 27, 2014, Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, and that

notwithstanding the previous order of Tuesday, March 25, 2014, the time until noon be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, and all other provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

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Owens Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Page \$1770

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, March 28, 2014.

Page S1770

Contreras-Sweet Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following disposition of H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration; that there be two minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination; that no further motions be in order.

Page S1771

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 84), Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Pages S1760, S1779

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 80), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages \$1745-46

By 93 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Pages S1760, S1780

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 81), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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By 59 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Pages S1760, S1780

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 82), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S1746

By 69 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 87), Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Pages S1760-61, S1780

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 23 nays (Vote No. 83), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages \$1746-47

Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pages S1761, S1780

Messages from the House: Page \$1773

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages \$1742, \$1773

Executive Communications: Pages \$1773-74

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages \$1774-75

Additional Cosponsors: Pages \$1775-76

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1776-78

Additional Statements: Pages \$1772-73

Amendments Submitted: Page \$1778

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1778

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—87)

Pages S1746–47, S1760–61

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page \$1779.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Sally Jewell, Secretary, Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary for Policy,

Management and Budget, and Pam K. Haze, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition, all of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve, and Lieutenant General Richard P. Mills, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, United State Marine Corps, all of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary (Comptroller), Jessica L. Wright, Acting Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Jonathan A. Woodson, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Frederick E. Vollrath, Assistant Secretary for Readiness and Force Management, and Richard O. Wightman, Acting Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, all of the Department of Defense; Colonel Michael F. Hayden, USAF (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, John R. Davis, Fleet Reserve Association, and Kathleen B. Moakler, National Military Family Association, all of Alexandria, Virginia; and Captain Marshall Hanson, USNR (Ret.), Reserve Officers Association, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, Michael J.